United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | R3 Regional Office | 333 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
FAX (505) 842-3800
V/TTY (505) 842-3292

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Lawrence Morrin
Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Southwest Regional Office
P.O. Box 26567
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Dear Mr. Morrin:

On July 27, Dave Conklin of our staff met with John Waconda (Southwest Regional Office), Andy Quam (Southern Pueblos Agency), and Ron Charlie (Acoma Pueblo) to examine a potential insect/disease suppression project area on the Acoma Pueblo. The area tentatively proposed by Andy included about 65 acres of ponderosa pine "stringers" located in an area known as Reggie Park. Bark beetle activity over the past two to three years has resulted in pockets of tree mortality in this area. However, it appeared that most of the insect activity had tapered off in 2005. Although we agreed that portions of this area could benefit from thinning, the area did not appear to meet our criteria for a suppression project.

They examined another area at the base of Cebollita Peak (Brushy Mountain) also being considered for treatment. This stand lies directly adjacent to the 1993/94 Brushy Mountain timber sale, where FHP (formerly FPM) funding had been used to implement portions of the follow-up treatment. This area, which has never been thinned, consists of mature uneven-aged ponderosa pine with light dwarf mistletoe infection. The stand includes a scattered overstory of mature trees, many of which are 200 to 300+ years old. Several of these have died over the past few years, a result of drought and competition from the dense pole and sapling groups in the understory. Presently, the dwarf mistletoe appears to be limited to a severe pocket along the eastern edge of the stand.

We agreed that this stand could benefit from thinning, and that this area would better meet our criteria for a suppression project. Andy has since re-submitted the proposal to include treatment of this area rather than the one in Reggie Park. Treatment would thin understory trees to an average 15 to 20-foot spacing, which will reduce competition and perhaps increase the longevity of the remaining older trees. Assuming funding becomes available, Dave will assist with marking the stand to isolate the mistletoe and limit its further spread. We recommend that treatment be conducted between July and December in order to reduce the possiblity of an outbreak of *Ips*.

Please contact Dave if you have questions about this evaluation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dave Conklin (for)
DEBRA ALLEN-REID
New Mexico Zone Leader, Forest Health

cc:
Leonard Lucero
John Anhold
John Waconda, Southwest Regional Office, BIA
Andy Quam, Southern Pueblos Agency, BIA